

#### POTATO CROP LARGE

100,000 Barrels Will be Harvested This Season

Hastings, Fla., Jan. 28.—A car of fall potatoes left Hastings Monday for E. S. Woodward & Co. of Philadelphia. The car was shipped by R. C. Harris, who has been buying a great many here and has been paying \$3.25 per barrel at the station.

The potato crop around Hastings this season is estimated at 100,000 barrels against 87,000 last year. The weather conditions have been a great deal more favorable this season than last. The supply of seed stock was secured principally from Maine, where fully 60 per cent. was purchased. New York followed next with about 30 per cent., which came mainly from the Avoca district. Michigan supplied about 8 per cent., while Ohio made up the balance with 2 per cent.

So far there has been received here 11,467 sacks of potatoes, while about six cars are yet to arrive. This will mean that about 3000 acres will be devoted to potatoes this year. The amount of fertilizer used also runs up to a big figure as 2687 tons were received here this year. This is a falling off from last year, when 2749 tons were used.

The first car of the new crop it is estimated will be ready by the last part of April. So far there have been about 30 cars of sweet potatoes moved from here this season. This about cleans up the crop.

#### HICKORY

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28, 1908.

To the Editor Ocala Banner:

"No wood will be more difficult to replace when the approaching shortage in the supply of hardwoods overtakes us than the hickory," said one of the foresters in the employ of the government, recently.

The truth of this statement is not realized by anyone more than the practical men of the various trades whose future prosperity is measured by the available supply of this valuable timber.

Hickory ranks only twelfth among the hardwoods in the country's annual timber cut, according to the census report for 1906. So far as quantity is concerned it is not to be compared with white oak or yellow poplar. But it is used today for a number of purposes which require great toughness, and great strength, and no other wood occurring in considerable quantity combines these properties in a greater degree than do some of the hickories.

Peculiar interest is given to the situation by the fact that hickory is distinctively an American genus. It occurs only in the eastern part of the United States, and large quantities of hickory handles, spokes, wheels, and other parts of vehicles and farm implements are exported each year to all parts of the world.

The requirements of the trade are very exacting. Hickory timber to be serviceable must be heavy, clear and straight grained. To this very essential qualification, custom and tradition have added an unnecessary burden in the shape of grading rules which discriminate against red hickory, and also against iron streaks, small bird pecks, and hard knots in the wood, which may not really effect the strength at all.

Practical users of this timber have realized for years that a revision of the grading rules was not only advisable but necessary, and now, the National Hickory Association of Chicago has requested the United States forest service to co-operate with it in the revision of the grading rules for vehicle and agricultural implement stock. This association is composed largely of hickory and oak users, and its members represent the wagon, carriage, spoke, handle, hardwood dimension and agricultural implement manufacturers, together with the accessory trades.

The grading rules for the classes of material used by the manufacturers of this association are today largely what they were twenty-five years ago. The dissatisfaction constantly arising from the inadequacy of the present rules calls for a complete revision to make them conform with present day conditions.

During the past two years the forest service has been conducting a study of the vehicle industry, supplemented by a large number of tests to determine the relative effect of various defects upon the strength of vehicle stock, and to ascertain the relative strength of white and red hickory. The results of these studies have been made the subject of a forest service publication which will be issued shortly.

FORESTER.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Jacksonville is making a fight on cruelty to mules. A negro driver and the owner of a team in Jacksonville were both arrested, one being sent to the chain gang and the other fined \$25. That is the way to put a stop to it.

David Bennett Hill is not so much in politics any more.

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